[35.]

THE PRESENTMENT And Humble PETITION OF THE GRAND JURY FOR THE County of Middlesex.

To the Honourable and Right Worshipful the Justice of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, *at this present General Sessions held at* Hick's-Hall, *begun the* 18th *day of* May, 1681.

Sheweth,

THat We the said Grand Jury, being by our Oaths obliged to enquire into the State of the Peace of the County, hold our selves bound to shew unto this Court, what we find and Apprehend concerning the same. Upon the most diligent enquiry and Observation that we can make.

We find that the peace of this County and the whole Kingdom is in no security, by reason of the continual Contrivances of the Papists and their Adherents against the Protestants, to throw their wicked Conspiracies upon them, and we have reason to fear dayly that the peace may be broken, by means of some of their wicked designs to enrage some inconsiderate people.

We find that His Majesties Person is in no security whilst the Papists have hopes, and a visible appearance that there may be a Popish Successor to head them, and destroy the Protestant Interest, if they can by any wicked means and Hellish Villanies, procure His Majesties Death, which God (in his Mercy) prevent.

We find the minds of the people greatly disquieted and distracted, with fears of what may happen to them, remembring the destructions that have been made in the City of *London* and elsewhere; and we perceive dayly endeavours by Jesuitical Councils, to distract and divide the Protestants into Parties, and to incense each of them against the other, to suggest ill and false opinions of their Parliaments, and to villifie the Authority of the Commons, and to misrepresent their proceedings,

We

We find wicked ſecrets, endeavours to make breaches between His Majeſty and the Commons of *England* in Parliament by Printed Papers and otherwiſe, to bring the Commons in Parliament into the hatred and contempt of the Nation, which we conceive to be of moſt dangerous conſequence, tending even to the Diſſolution of the conſtitution of the Government.

And we find the Papiſts and their Adherents much encouraged by the frequent Diſſolution of Parliaments, and the whole Kingdom put into a Languiſhing condition.

All which Evils in our apprehenſions can be only cured by the Sitting of Annual Parliaments, until the buſineſs of the Kingdom be done, (as the Laws for holding Parliaments do intend) that being the only means to keep the whole Adminiſtration of the Government in due Order, and therefore the peace of the Kingdom inviolable, which Parliaments ſhall (as have been uſed heretofore) conſtantly inſpect the effects of all Counſels given to His Majeſty; None will dare to advize him againſt his own and the Kingdoms Intereſt, whereby only the people may enjoy what was left them by their Anceſtors, and Juſtice may be done upon all dangerous Offenders and Conſpirators againſt His Majeſty, and the Religion, Lives, and Liberties of the Subjects.

We therefore Humbly Offer it as our Requeſts, that your Worſhips and this Court, will (in that moſt acceptable and effectual way, which ſhall ſeem meet to your Wiſdom) make their moſt humble and earneſt Deſires and Prayers known to his Majeſty, for the immediate holding of a Parliament, which may Sit for ſuch time as the Imminent danger of his Majeſty and the whole Kingdom hath made it neceſſary and indiſpenſible; that ſo his Subjects may enjoy the benefit of the Laws, as the conſtitution of the Government intends them in their Parliament, which is to make ſufficient Proviſion for the ſafety of his Majeſty, and the Security of the whole Kingdom in their Religion, Laws and Liberties.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever Pray, &c.

FINIS.

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